

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus ~~that~~
~~has-a comprising:~~

discharging means for discharging ~~a~~ sheet-shaped medium ~~of being~~ that is transferred;
and a

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piling means for piling the sheet-shaped medium discharged from the discharging
means, ~~in which~~ the sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus ~~arranges~~ arranging to pile the
sheet-shaped medium piled on the piling means, ~~comprising:~~; and

an arranging means ~~of having two funetions of~~ for performing an arranging function
for arranging the sheet-shaped medium piled on said piling means after ~~discharged~~ discharge
from said discharging means at only a fixed position in the ~~a shift~~ direction (~~shift direction~~)
perpendicular to ~~said a~~ discharge direction and ~~of~~ for performing a sorting/arranging function
for arranging the sheet-shaped medium ~~in of~~ every copy at a different position in the shift
direction (~~shift direction~~) perpendicular to said discharge direction,

wherein said arranging means includes a pair of arranging members and an arranging
member driving device for operating the arranging members, and said arranging members
include arranging sections that come into contact with end faces of said sheet-shaped medium
such as to put two end faces of said sheet-shaped medium in parallel to said discharge
direction therebetween, and

wherein concave sections are formed at an upper surface of said piling means so that
part of said one pair of arranging members may be placed below the upper surface of said
piling means.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein step shaped relief sections are formed at the a head of said arranging sections in said arranging members with a wider face-to-face interval than a face-to-face interval of said arranging sections.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said face-to-face interval of the step shaped relief section sections, in comparison with said face-to-face interval of the arranging section sections, is a wider interval than half of said a shift amount at the time of the sorting/arranging function of arranging the sheet-shaped medium while shifting a position by only a predetermined shift amount in the shift direction (shift direction) perpendicular to said discharge direction.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said face-to-face interval of the step shaped relief sections, in comparison with said face-to-face interval of the arranging sections, is a wider interval than an interval in which an inroad amount of said arranging members into an inside of the sheet-shaped medium from the an end face at the time of arranging the sheet-shaped medium is added to half of said shift amount at the time of the sorting/arranging function of arranging the sheet-shaped medium while shifting the position by only the predetermined shift amount in the shift direction (shift direction) perpendicular to said discharge direction.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, at the a time of exhibiting said sorting/arranging function, said arranging means ~~conducts arrangement of the~~ arranges an ultimate sheet-shaped medium of a

respective one of a plurality of copies, ~~after that, moving and afterward moves in the shift direction (shift direction)~~ perpendicular to said discharge direction to a wait position for ~~the sake of an~~ arrangement of a next copy ~~with condition while being~~ evacuated upward.

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Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, at ~~the a~~ time of ~~exhibiting~~ said sorting/arranging function, arrangement is conducted ~~in such a way as to conduct actions in which that one side of said arranging members is made not to move, and the other side another of said arranging members reciprocates in the shift direction (shift direction)~~ perpendicular to said discharge direction alternately in every copy.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said wait position ~~before action of said arranging member of the side of operating the arranging action is taken to be an upper surface position within the a range where the a copy already aligned at a previous time is positioned.~~

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein ~~action of said arrangement by using said arranging means is made to prohibit to prevents an initial sheet-shaped medium of the a copy from aligning.~~

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said one pair of arranging members is ~~composed of includes a~~ plate shaped body in which said arranging sections are located at ~~the most a~~ lowest section of said arranging members and at least two opposite surfaces ~~with opposing~~ each other ~~are composed of including~~ plane surfaces perpendicular to said shift direction.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said arranging means ~~have a~~ includes moving means ~~of for~~ moving the arranging members ~~of moving~~ in approaching/departing ~~direction~~ directions independently in which the moving means causes one side of said one pair of arranging members to move to ~~the other~~ another side, or vice versa.

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Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim ~~12 1~~, wherein said concave sections have a size capable of accommodating the arranging members ~~at the time~~ when said arranging members ~~conduct~~ said arranging action to arrange the sheet shaped medium at the minimum size.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim ~~12 1~~, wherein said concave sections have a size capable of accommodating said one pair of arranging members even ~~though at the time~~ when said arranging members move in the shift direction (~~shift direction~~) perpendicular to the discharge direction ~~in order to conduct said sorting/arranging action sort or arrange the sheet-shaped medium.~~

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim ~~12 1~~, wherein when the sheet shaped medium is not piled on said piling means, the sheet-shaped medium is discharged from said discharging means ~~under the~~

~~condition that when part of said one pair of arranging members is located downwards than below the piled surface of the sheet-shaped medium of said piling means.~~

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim ~~42~~ 1, wherein said arranging means has a supporting shaft for supporting said arranging members capable of being rotated and a restricting member for restricting a rotation amount of said one pair of arranging members with said supporting shaft as a center.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said one pair of arranging members is placed within said concave sections of the upper surface of said piling means or an arrangement operation position contacted to the contacting a top surface section of the sheet shaped medium piled on said piling means while rotating with moment by own weight a momentum of a weight of the arranging members.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 10,

wherein ~~when a an evacuation position of includes departing from a position that is one in which said one pair of arranging members come into contact with the contacts a top surface of the sheet-shaped medium piled on said piling means is taken to be an evacuation position, there is provided an and~~

wherein the sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus further comprises evacuating means for evacuating said one pair of arranging members while rotating from ~~said an arrangement operation position to said evacuation position.~~

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

an ascent and descent means ~~capable of~~ for going up and down said piling means; and a positioning means for determining a position of the piling means in an up-and-down direction due to said ascent and descent means at ~~the~~ a discharge time of the sheet-shaped medium from said discharging means so that the upper surface of said piling means or the position of the up-and-down direction of the top surface of said sheet-shaped medium piled on the upper surface of said piling means becomes a correct discharge position of being better suited for discharge ~~for~~ of the sheet-shaped medium from said discharging means.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein a part of said one pair of arranging members ~~are contacting~~ the sheet-shaped medium made from includes material ~~whose~~ having a first coefficient of friction ~~of part to be respective lower and sections of contacting with the sheet shaped medium is smaller than a second~~ coefficient of friction of the sheet-shaped medium therebetween.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said one pair of arranging members is operated by an arranging member driving device, and the arranging member driving device includes:

a fulcrum shaft ~~for supporting to engage~~ configured to support said one pair of arranging members in which the fulcrum shaft is common to said one pair of arranging members;

a push-movement shaft ~~for rotating~~ configured to rotate the arranging members with the fulcrum shaft as a center while contacting ~~with~~ respective action points on respective arranging members ~~of~~ being shifted from said fulcrum shaft; and

a rotation stopping member ~~capable of stopping~~ configured to stop rotation respectively due to rotational ~~moment~~ momentum with said fulcrum shaft as the center by ~~own~~ a weight of said arranging members, in which said fulcrum shaft serves as a guide shaft for guiding respective arranging members in said an arrangement direction, and said rotation stopping member ~~serves as a driving means for moving~~ moves the arranging members in said arrangement direction.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising:

a switch-driving means for switching freely a condition of conducting push-movement of respective ones of said action points while acting on said push-movement shaft, ~~and condition of releasing the push movement by~~
wherein said push-movement shaft releases the push-movement.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus ~~that has an~~ comprising image forming means for conducting image formation on a sheet-shaped medium and [[a]] conveying means for conveying the sheet-shaped medium ~~of being~~ subjected to the image formation, ~~is provided with~~ further comprising the sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to any one of claim 10 to 22 1.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A sheet-shaped medium after-treatment apparatus that has an comprising after-treatment means for conducting after-treatment to on a sheet-

shaped medium and [[a]] conveying means for conveying the sheet-shaped medium of being subjected to the after-treatment, is provided with further comprising the sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to any one of claim 10 to 22 1.



Claim 25 (New): A sheet shaped medium processing apparatus comprising:

a discharging device configured to discharge a sheet shaped medium that is transferred;

a piling device configured to pile the sheet shaped medium discharged from the discharging device, the sheet shaped medium processing apparatus arranging to pile the sheet shaped medium piled on the piling device; and

an arranging device configured to perform an arranging function for arranging the sheet shaped medium piled on said piling device after discharge from said discharging device at only a fixed position in a shift direction perpendicular to a discharge direction and to perform a sorting/arranging function for arranging the sheet shaped medium of every copy at a different position in the shift direction perpendicular to said discharge direction,

wherein said arranging device includes a pair of arranging members and an arranging member driving device configured to operate the arranging members, and said arranging members include arranging sections that come into contact with end faces of said sheet shaped medium so as to put two end faces of said sheet shaped medium in parallel to said discharge direction therebetween, and

wherein concave sections are formed at an upper surface of said piling device so that part of said one pair of arranging members may be placed below the upper surface of said piling device.

Claim 26 (New): The sheet shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein step shaped relief sections are formed at a head of said arranging sections in said arranging members with a wider face-to-face interval than a face-to-face interval of said arranging sections.

Claim 27 (New): The sheet shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said face-to-face interval of the step shaped relief sections, in comparison with said face-to-face interval of the arranging sections, is a wider interval than half of a shift amount at a time of the sorting/arranging function of arranging the sheet shaped medium while shifting a position by only a predetermined shift amount in the shift direction perpendicular to said discharge direction.

Claim 28 (New): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said face-to-face interval of the step shaped relief sections, in comparison with said face-to-face interval of the arranging sections, is a wider interval than an interval in which an inroad amount of said arranging members into an inside of the sheet shaped medium from an end face at a time of arranging the sheet shaped medium is added to half of said shift amount at the time of the sorting/arranging function of arranging the sheet-shaped medium while shifting the position by only the predetermined shift amount in the shift direction perpendicular to said discharge direction.

Claim 29 (New) The sheet shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein at a time of said sorting/arranging function, said arranging device arranges an ultimate sheet shaped medium of a respective one of a plurality of copies, and

afterward moves in the shift direction perpendicular to said discharge direction to a wait position for an arrangement of a next copy while being evacuated upward.

Claim 30 (New): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein at a time of said sorting/arranging function, arrangement is conducted such that one of said arranging members is made not to move, and another of said arranging members reciprocates in the shift direction perpendicular to said discharge direction alternately in every copy.

Claim 31 (New): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said wait position is an upper surface position within a range where a copy already aligned at a previous time is positioned.

Claim 32 (New): The sheet shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said arrangement using said arranging device prevents an initial sheet shaped medium of a copy from aligning.

Claim 33 (New): The sheet shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said one pair of arranging members includes a plate shaped body in which said arranging sections are located at a lowest section of said arranging members and at least two opposite surfaces opposing each other including plane surfaces perpendicular to said shift direction.

Claim 34 (New): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said arranging device includes a moving device configured to move the

arranging members in approaching/departing directions independently in which the moving device causes one side of said one pair of arranging members to move to another aide, or vice versa.

Claim 35 (New): The sheet shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said concave sections have a size capable of accommodating the arranging members when said arranging members arrange the sheet shaped medium at the minimum size.

Claim 36 (New): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said concave sections have a size capable of accommodating said one pair of arranging members even when said arranging members move in the shift direction perpendicular to the discharge direction to sort or arrange the sheet shaped medium.

Claim 37 (New): The-sheet shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein when the sheet shaped medium is not piled on said piling device, the sheet-shaped medium is discharged from said discharging device when part of said one pair of arranging members is located below the piled surface of the sheet shaped medium of said piling device.

Claim 38 (New): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said arranging device has a supporting shaft configured to support said arranging members capable of being rotated and a restricting member configured to restrict a rotation amount of said one pair of arranging members with said supporting shaft as a center.

Claim 39 (New): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said one pair of arranging members is placed within said concave sections of the upper surface of said piling device or an arrangement operation position contacting a top surface section of the sheet shaped medium piled on said piling device while rotating by a momentum of a weight of the arranging members.

Claim 40 (New): The sheet shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25,

wherein an evacuation position includes departing from a position in which said one pair of arranging members contacts a top surface of the sheet shaped medium piled an said piling device, and

wherein the sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus further includes an evacuating device configured to evacuate said one pair of arranging members while rotating from an arrangement operation position to said evacuation position.

Claim 41 (New): The sheet shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising:

an ascent and descent device configured to go up and down said piling device; and a positioning device configured to determine a position of the piling device in an up-and-down direction due to said ascent and descent device at a discharge time of the sheet shaped medium from said discharging device so that the upper surface of said piling device or the position in the up-and-down direction of the top surface of said sheet shaped medium piled on the upper surface of said piling device becomes a correct discharge

position better suited for discharge of the sheet-shaped medium from said discharging device.

Claim 42 (New): The sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein a part of said one pair of arranging members contacting the sheet-shaped medium includes material having a first coefficient of friction lower than a second coefficient of friction of the sheet-shaped medium.

Claim 43 (New): The sheet shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said one pair of arranging members is operated by an arranging member driving device, and the arranging member driving device includes:

a fulcrum shaft configured to support said one pair of arranging members in which the fulcrum shaft is common to said one pair of arranging members;

a push-movement shaft configured to rotate the arranging members with the fulcrum shaft as a center while contacting respective action points on respective arranging members being shifted from said fulcrum shaft; and

a rotation stopping member configured to stop rotation respectively due to rotational momentum with said fulcrum shaft as the center by a weight of said arranging members, in which said fulcrum shaft serves as a guide shaft for guiding respective arranging members in an arrangement direction, and said rotation stopping member moves the arranging members in said arrangement direction.

Claim 44 (New): An image forming apparatus comprising an image forming device configured to conduct image formation on a sheet-shaped medium and a conveying device configured to convey the sheet-shaped medium subjected to the image

formation, further comprising the sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25.

Claim 45 (New): A sheet-shaped medium after-treatment apparatus comprising an after treatment device configured to conduct after-treatment on a sheet shaped medium and a conveying device configured to convey the sheet shaped medium subjected to the after-treatment, further comprising the sheet-shaped medium processing apparatus according to claim 25.